

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 8, 1999 LB 211

imagine that it's true. It's very, very difficult to do and there are physical effects, not on your body but on your surroundings. Senator Schmitt handed me a picture and I...I believe it's from somewhere in the building, Senator Schmitt?

SENATOR SCHMITT: Governor's Office.

SENATOR TYSON: Taken from the Governor's Office and I wish all of you had a copy of this. You do have a copy of all this. Okay. A good portion of what you see there is smoke. When they banned cigarettes on airlines they saved an enormous sum of money because the physical remains, not just the gasses but the physical remains of the smoke, the fine particles of burned product were clogging up air filters, passageways within the...small passageways within the aircraft. It was harmful to the aircraft that you smoked. Now what about the people that are smoking in some little secluded area? The effects of smoke linger on in a physical manner. And this is not to say that they can't smoke. They just can't smoke in a state building. Why should we permit something that is known to be unhealthy, known to be dangerous to continue? And we're not taking away their right to smoke. They have every right to smoke. I had a right to smoke. I had a right to make a fool of myself for 47 years. Some say that I'm...haven't stopped yet. But at least I stopped smoking. I got that ahead of Senator Chambers, because he was probably going to point that out. Now you can't do that. This is a very simple amendment and all it does, it takes smoking, admittedly a vile habit, out of state office buildings. If they want to go outside, they have every right to do so. There is a bill, I believe, in here to raise the tax on cigarettes. I don't believe that we should use tax policy to influence personal behavior, and this doesn't do that. This merely says, you want to smoke, go outside. Go outside and smoke. Doesn't bother anybody and the physical effect is on yourself only. I urge that my amendment be adopted. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Tyson. For discussion on the Tyson amendment, Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have to get my gadget operating here so that I can see that